of these products including ensuring minimum support prices and providing authentic seeds to growers;

(e) if so, what are the main points of this new strategy;

(f) what are the countries where farm exports have been on the increase; and

(g) what are the items that have been in demand for export in the farm sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) A negligible quanity of less than 100 MTs was exported in 1993-94.

(b) and (c) As per DGCI&S Statistics, export of agricultural commodities (excluding cotton) during April-December, 1993 was around US$ 1690 million as against US$ 1290 million in the comparative period in 1992. It is proposed to maintain the quantitative ceiling of 3,00,000 tonnes for export of 'Durum' wheat in1994-95. It is also proposed to substantially step up exports from the agricultural sector in 1994-95.

(d) and (e) Recent steps taken by Government to promote higher value products include liberalisation in exports of 'Durum' wheat, wheat products, superfine varieties of Non-Basmati rice etc. The seeds Policy has also been liberalised to ensure supply of better quality seeds to the farmers. Various Commodity Board under the Ministry of Commerce like Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) Spices Board and Tobacco Board have introduced schemes for quality upgradation and improved pro**cess**ing, handling and transportatio . An **ai**l freight subsidy has also been introduced for some fruits. These export measures provide the farmers with an expanded market and hence the possibility of a higher price.

(f) and (g) The major items of farm produce for export from India are deoiled cakes, rice, cashew, fruits and vegetables, spices, tobacco, etc. and the major destinations being countries in West Asia, South East Asia, USA and Europe.

Opposition to the Withdrawal of International Price Reimbursement Scheme

3659. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the Chairman, Engineering Export Promotion Council, opposing the move for the withdrawal of the International Price Reimbursement Scheme as reported in "Patrika" of January 31, 1994; and

(b) if so, what were the precise objections of the EEPC to the withdrawal of the scheme and what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Government's attention has been drawn to Press Communique by Chairman, EEPC on 28-1-94. This has highlighted the perception that withdrawal of IPRS will adversely affect the exports of engineering goods. IPRS had to be withdrawn as no viable mechanism of funding the Scheme could be

found. However, exporters can still obtain iron and steel at international prices through duty free import under the Duty Exemption Scheme.

Basel Convention

3660. DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the salient features of Basel Convention and whether Government propose to ratify the same and if so, in what manner the Convention will affect the Indian trade;

(b) what is the present quality and value of import of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap, plastic scrap and paper scrap and whether Government propose to ban such import; and

(c) whether the scrap recycling industry has made any representation to Government not to impose any such ban and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The Basel Convention seeks to prohibit the export of hazardous wastes without the consent in writing of the importing country. The exporting country has to ensure that the waste is disposed off in an environmentally sound manner in the importing country. The Convention is applicable to 47 categories of wastes (other than nuclear wastes) from hazardous industries and hazardous processes. It is the sovereign right of the importing country to prohibit import of such wastes if they do not consider it possible to manage it in an environmentally sound manner. India ratified the Convention on June 24, 1992. The import of hazardous wastes is regulated by the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

As far as import of ferrous scrap is concerned, during 1992-93 2.57 million tonnes of scrap was imported and about 1 million tonnes is expected to have been imported during 1993-94. The present international price of shredded scrap is reported to be about US$ 170-175/ tonnes. As far as non-ferrous scrap is concerned, the value of imports during 1992-93 was as follows:

Waste and scrap of plastics	Rs.	18.80	crores
Waste and scrap of paper	Rs.	136.24	crores
Copper waste and scrap	Rs.	253.39	crores
Waste and scrap of nickle	Rs.	0.70	crores
Aluminium waste and scrap	Rs.	4.33	crores
Lead waste and scrap	Rs.	4.83	crores
Zinc waste and scrap	Rs.	0.30	crores
Tin waste and scrap	Rs.	0.10	crores